2011 Legislature TPS Report 55282v3

Agency: Commerce, Community and Economic Development

Grants to Named Recipients (AS 37.05.316) Grant Recipient: Anchorage Park Foundation

Project Title: Project Type: Remodel, Reconstruction and Upgrades

Anchorage Park Foundation - Abbott-O-Rabbit Little **League Upgrades**

State Funding Requested: \$400,000 House District: 30 / O

One-Time Need

Brief Project Description:

ADA accessable pathways connecting terraced ballfields in the Municipality of Anchorage's Ruth Arcand Park.

Funding Plan:

Total Project Cost:	\$435,000
Funding Already Secured:	(\$0)
FY2012 State Funding Request:	(\$400,000)
Project Deficit:	\$35,000

Detailed Project Description and Justification:

Ruth Arcand Park, which is home to Abbott O' Rabbit Little League, is one of Anchorage's major outdoor recreation centers. The park currently has seven fields that are located on 6 terraces, on 5 separate elevations, connected by non ADA-compliant paths. The 3 parking areas are currently not paved nor do they have defined ADA parking spaces. The current state of the parking adds to the maintenance requirements of the turf areas as the wind frequently loads the fi elds with dirt and debris.

Planned improvements include: the installation of 100,000 square feet of paved and striped parking with ADA parking; the installation of 3,260 lineal feet of ADA compliant pathways that improve connectivity between the parking and the existing 7 fields.

The total funding request for this phase of the project is for \$435,000.

2010 Statistics from AOR Little League:

- 595 players
- Approximately 1,000 parents
- 48 regular season teams
- 555 games on AOR fi elds
- Other events: opening day ceremonies, baseball clinics, city wide tournament, All-

Stars tournaments

- 24-member volunteer board of directors
- 89 volunteer coaches
- Total number of volunteer hours in 2010: 14,250 man hours!

For use by Co-chair Staff Only:

Federal Tax ID: 412205907

2011 Legislature TPS Report 55282v3

Project Timeline:		
2011 Summer		

Entity Responsible for the Ongoing Operation and Maintenance of this Project:

Abbott O' Rabbit Little League

Grant Recipient Contact Information:

Name: Beth Nordlund
Title: Executive Director
Address: 715 L Street, Suite 200
Anchorage, Alaska 99501

Phone Number: (907)274-1003

Email: beth@AnchorageParkFoundation.org

Has this project been through a public review process at the local level and is it a community priority? Yes X No

Page 2

For use by Co-chair Staff Only:









Anchorage Park Foundation

Yes! I would like to support the Anchorage Park Foundation. Enclosed is my contribution of:

- □ \$10,000 and up Park Philanthropists □ \$5,000 \$9,999 Great Parks Investors
- □ \$1,000 \$4,999 Stewards
- □ I/We would like to make a contribution for a specific project
- ☐ Please list my/our name(s) in the annual report as follows:
- ☐ Check here for anonymous listing

Name

Check here for anonymous listing

City_____State__

ate Zip Home PH:

Work PH:

Method of Payment:

☐ My check is enclosed *Please make payable to:☐ Please charge my credit card:☐ Visa☐ MC

Anchorage Park Foundation 715 L Street Anchorage, AK 99501

Card # Exp. Date

Date__/___Name or

3-digit security code: ______ Signature: X

Contributions to the Anchorage Park Foundation are tax deductible to the full extent of the law. The Anchorage Park Foundation is a tax-exempt charitable organization, Federal Tax ID #41-2205907

2011





Anchorage Park Foundation

Abbott-O-Rabbit (AOR) Little League - Safety & Access Upgrades

Anchorage Park Foundation

The Anchorage Park
Foundation strives to build
Healthy Parks & Healthy
People by mobilizing public
support and financial
resources for Anchorage
parks, trails, and recreation
opportunities. Do you have
a vision for parks, trails, open
spaces and recreation in
Anchorage? Consider the
Anchorage Park Foundation
your opportunity to fund
community projects through
public-private partnerships.

Visit us at: www.AnchorageParkFoundation.org

Parks Recreation

Anchorage has 10,946 acres of municipal parkland, 223 parks, and over 250 miles of trails and greenbelts that link neighborhoods with surrounding natural open space and wildlife habitat. These are considerable assets for the citizens of Anchorage to enjoy and maintain.

Parks & Recreation launched the Clean & Green, Safe & Secure Campaign with the Anchorage Park Foundation to upgrade the safety, function, and appearance of Anchorage parks. To get involved, call 343-4288. Ruth Arcand Park, which is home to Abbott O' Rabbit Little League, is one of Anchorage's major outdoor recreation centers. The park currently has seven fields that are located on 6 terraces, on 5 separate elevations, connected by non ADA-compliant paths. The 3 parking areas are currently not paved nor do they have defined ADA parking spaces. The current state of the parking adds to the maintenance requirements of the turf areas as the wind frequently loads the fields with dirt and debris.

Planned improvements include: the installation of 100,000 square feet of paved and striped parking with ADA parking; the installation of 3,260 lineal feet of ADA compliant pathways that improve connectivity between the parking and the existing 7 fields.

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2010 Statistics from AOR Little League:

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- 89 volunteer coaches
- Total number of volunteer hours in 2010: 14,250 man hours!

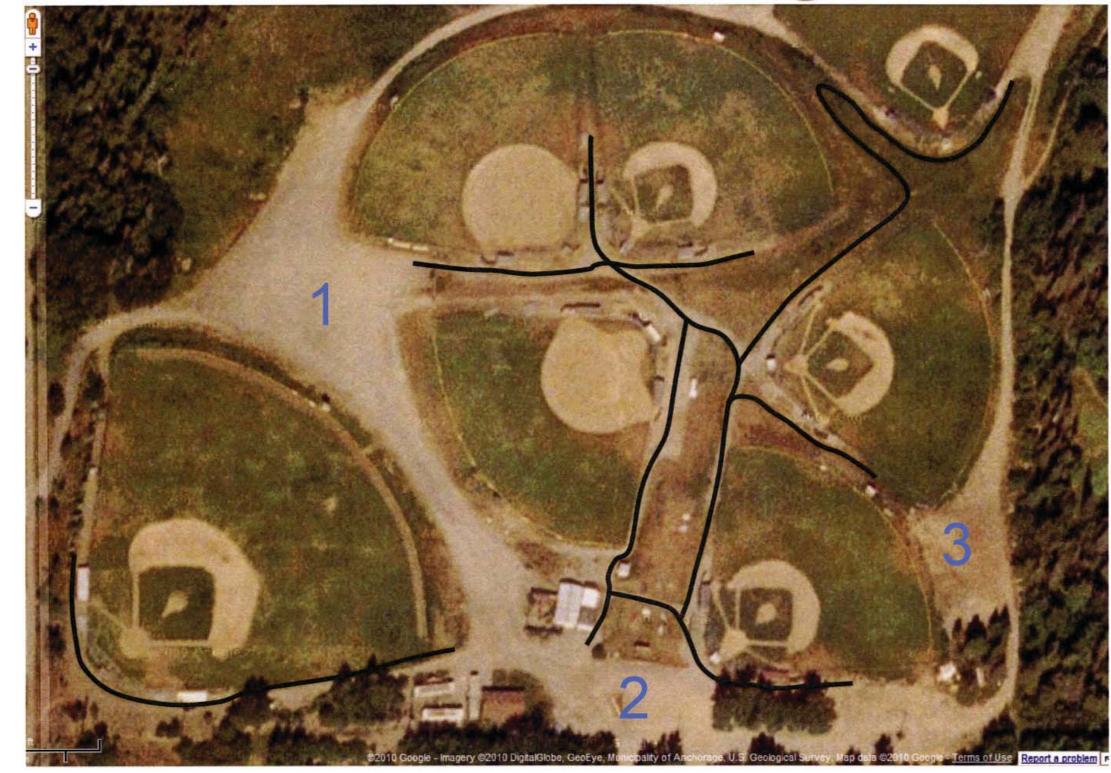






Proposed Network of Paved Paths





Abbott-O-Rabbit (AOR) Little League - Safety & Access Upgrades

Project Cost Estimate

Project Description

friends of AOR.

- 1. Area #1- Approximately 64,000 s.f. of paved parking with striping and adequate ADA parking
- 2. Area #2 Approximately 26,000 s.f. of paved parking with striping and adequate ADA parking
- 3. Area #3 Approximately 10,000 s.f. of paved parking with striping and adequate ADA parking
- 4. 8' wide paved pathways for ADA access to all of the ball fields. Approximately 3,260 lineal feet of pathways

Project Budget:	Cost		
 Area #1 Area #2 Area #3 Paved Pathways 	\$220,000 \$90,000 \$35,000 \$90,000		
Total	\$435,000		
Total 2011 Legislative Request	\$435,000		
Potential savings through volunteers and			

\$125,000



COMPILED LETTERS OF SUPPORT FOR ABBOTT O'RABBIT LITTLE LEAGUE FIELD IMPROVEMENTS AT RUTH ARCAND PARK

From: Darrell & Heather Bond <dh.bond@gci.net>

Date: January 19, 2011 8:46:58 PM AKST

To: senator_kevin_meyer@legis.state.ak.us, mike_hawker@legis.state.ak.us,

representative_charisse_millett@legis.state.ak.us, senator_cathy_giessel@legis.state.ak.us

Cc: wiljon@gci.net

Subject: Support for AOR Little League TPS# 55282

Dear Alaska State Legislature:

My sons play in the Abbott O'Rabbit Little League on the fields at Ruth Arcand Park. Little League provides a very healthy recreational opportunity for both of them, and our entire family attends games sometimes 4-5 nights per week during little league season.

The fields at Ruth Arcand Park, while well maintained by Little League volunteers, are difficult to access by the elderly or by wheelchair! Our family supports the legislative request (TPS # 55282) to upgrade the fields for disabled people to enjoy this great American pastime. My boys' grandparents would be able to attend if the fields had easier access for them.

I'd like to add that as more veterans come home from combat I think it is more important than ever that facilities allow access by wheelchair. Anchorage has a very large military population, of which veterans are a great part. In addition, the dust from the parking lot has kept our daughter from attending games due to her asthma.

Thank you so much for your consideration of this Anchorage Park Foundation and Abbott O'Rabbit Little League project. We plan to help with any of the work that can be done by volunteers.

Respectfully, Heather Bond

From: Sanjay Talwar <talwar@gci.net> Date: January 19, 2011 9:32:34 PM AKST

To: wiljon@gci.net

Subject: RE: Please write a letter or email to help AOR

I am writing today to express my support for Ruth Arcand Park, where Abbott O'Rabbit Little League serves over 600 kids for recreation sport. The AOR Little League have a strong voice in this community where growth and safety are our main goals. We have now reached the point where concerns have been raised about wheelchair access to the park and also to improve the parking areas.

On behalf of myself and many others in the community, thank you very much for your continued consideration of our needs. I'm eager to hear from you about this and please let me know what Alaska State Legislature members think about this proposal request (TPS # 55282). We also have many volunteers who are committed to make this park even more beautiful and enjoyable by all of us.

Regards, Sanjay From: Sharon & Mike Hayhurst [mailto:hayhurst@cableone.net]

Sent: Thursday, January 20, 2011 2:11 PM

To: Rep. Charisse Millett

Cc: wiljon@gci.net; Michael L. Hayhurst

Subject: Support for Abbott O Rabbit Little League Baseball TPS# 55282

Rep. Charisse Millett State Capitol Room 13 Juneau AK, 99801

Dear Rep. Charisse Millett,

Our sons play in the Abbott O'Rabbit Little League on the fields at Ruth Arcand Park. Little League provides a very healthy recreational opportunity for Brendon and Jason, and we enjoy the games as a family.

The fields at Ruth Arcand Park, while well maintained by Little League volunteers, are difficult to access by wheelchair. Our family supports the legislative request (TPS # 55282) to upgrade the fields for disabled people to enjoy this great American pastime.

We'd like to add that as more veterans come home from combat I think it is more important than ever that facilities allow access by wheelchair.

Thank you so much for your consideration of this Anchorage Park
Foundation and Abbott O'Rabbit Little League project. We plan to help
with any of the work that can be done by volunteers.

Sincerely, Sharon and Mike Hayhurst

From: "Fazzini, Thomas M" <tmfazzini@anthc.org>

Date: January 20, 2011 2:15:42 PM AKST

To: representative_mike_hawker@legis.state.ak.us

Cc: wiljon@gci.net

Subject: legislative request-TPS #55282.

The Honorable Mike Hawker House of Representatives Alaska State Capitol Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

Dear Representative Hawker:

Thank you for your dedicated service to this great state. I am writing to ask for your support of the <u>Anchorage Park Foundation and Abbott O'Rabbit Little League project</u>, <u>legislative request-TPS #55282</u>. This project is for accessibility upgrades at the Ruth Arcand Park.

As a veteran of the US Air Force, I notice other veterans returning home from combat with injuries that restrict their access to many of the areas we all enjoy. Regrettably, many of the areas in state may never be accessible to them again.

But, a local park where community events take place and activities like Little League Baseball played should have full and unrestricted access to everyone. Especially families who have loved ones confined to wheelchairs or use crutches or canes to add in their mobility.

With your support of <u>TPS #55282</u>, the Ruth Arcand Park will become accessible to those with limited mobility, allowing them to participate in the many activities at the park, or volunteer to keep score, and to cheer on their children while sipping a coke and eating a hotdog. It will make the facility American with Disabilities Act compliant and make the park more comfortable for all.

Please consider supporting legislative request-TPS #55282.

Sincerely,

Tom Fazzini

Dear Alaska State Legislature:

Our son Derek plays in the Abbott O'Rabbit Little League on the fields at Ruth Arcand Park. Little League provides a fantastic recreational opportunity that instills physical fitness, teamwork, and competition. As a family, we thoroughly enjoy the game of baseball/softball, but we'd like to see some major improvements to the Park.

The fields at Ruth Arcand Park, while well maintained by Little League volunteers, are difficult to access by wheelchair. Our family supports the legislative request (TPS # 55282) to upgrade the fields for disabled people to enjoy this great American pastime.

As a retired Marine and disabled veteran, I'd like to add that as more veterans come home from combat I think it is more important than ever that facilities allow access by wheelchair.

Thank you so much for your consideration of this Anchorage Park Foundation and Abbott O'Rabbit Little League project. We plan to help with any of the work that can be done by volunteers.

Respectfully,

LtCol Thomas D. McGinnis, USMC (ret) 231 High View Dr.
Anchorage, AK 99515 (907) 644-6904
Marine6@peoplepc.com

From: Marten Martensen <martenmartensen@gmail.com>

Date: January 20, 2011 9:45:35 AM AKST

To: senator_kevin_meyer@legis.state.ak.us, representative_mike_hawker@legis.state.ak.us, representative_charisse_millett@legis.state.ak.us, senator_cathy_giessel@legis.state.ak.us

Cc: wiljon@gci.net

Subject: Support for AOR Little League TPS# 55282

Dear Senator Meyer, Senator Giessel, Representative Hawker and Representative Millet,

If you have a child or had a chile in Softball or Baseball and you've played at or visited Abbott-O-Rabitts fields then you know what kind of condition they are in. If you haven't seen them you should. Compared to other parks that have recently been built on behalf of kids softball and baseball, Abbott-O-Rabbitt is in need of major improvements. The current staff and volunteers at AOR have done a lot in the past three years to improve the facilities but this has been done with sweat equity. What we need now is funding to continue to make the necessary improvements to make AOR a suitable place for our kids to play and for their parents and friends to watch. Please consider supporting AOR during this legislative session.

Sincerely,

Marten Martensen Father of 3 AOR baseball players From: "Fazzini, Thomas M" <tmfazzini@anthc.org>

Date: January 20, 2011 1:05:24 PM AKST To: senator_kevin_meyer@legis.state.ak.us

Cc: wiljon@gci.net

Subject: legislative request-TPS #55282

The Honorable Kevin Meyer State Senate Alaska State Capitol Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

Dear Senator Meyer:

Thank you for your dedicated service to this great state. I am writing to ask for your support of the <u>Anchorage Park Foundation and Abbott O'Rabbit Little League project, legislative request-TPS #55282.</u> This project is for accessibility upgrades at the Ruth Arcand Park.

My son Julito plays Little League baseball at Ruth Arcand park and my family enjoys easy access to watch him play. Like you, I hunt and fish, and also cherish family oriented activities, so I am certain we would agree all families should have equal access to these types of activities. Unfortunately, not all families enjoy the same easy accesses as we do. Especially families who have loved ones confined to wheelchairs or use crutches or canes for their mobility. With your support of <u>TPS #55282</u>, the Ruth Arcand Park will become accessible to those with limited mobility allowing them to participate at the many activities at the park, volunteer to keep score, or just relax with a hotdog and enjoy the great American pastime, baseball. Please consider supporting legislative request-TPS #55282.

Sincerely,

Tom Fazzini

From: Kathy Garcia <garciabruzzi@gmail.com> Date: January 20, 2011 12:50:22 AM AKST

To: senator_kevin_meyer@legis.state.ak.us, representative_mike_hawker@legis.state.ak.us, representative_charisse_millett@legis.state.ak.us, senator_cathy_giessel@legis.state.ak.us

Cc: wiljon@gci.net Subject: tps#55282

Dear Alaska State Legislature:

My son plays in the Abbott O'Rabbit Little League on the fields at Ruth Arcand Park. Little League provides a very healthy recreational opportunity for Timmy, and we enjoy the games as a family.

The fields at Ruth Arcand Park, while well maintained by Little League volunteers, are difficult to access by wheelchair. ! Our family supports the legislative request (TPS # 55282) to upgrade the fields for disabled people to enjoy this great American pastime.

I'd like to add that as more veterans come home from combat I think it is more important than ever that facilities allow access by wheelchair.

Thank you so much for your consideration of this Anchorage Park Foundation and Abbott O'Rabbit Little League project. We plan to help with any of the work that can be done by volunteers.

Sincerely, Kathy Garcia

From: Jeffrey Logan <jefflogan@gci.net> Date: January 20, 2011 11:34:17 AM AKST To: wiljon@gci.net

My son Griffin plays in the AORLL.

Jeff Logan Jeff Logan & Associates 4300 E. 135th Ave. Anchorage, Alaska 99516 Ph. 907.529.1181 Fx. 1.877.485.7932 jefflogan@gci.net

From: Tara.Koloski@wellsfargo.com

Date: January 20, 2011 11:47:38 AM AKST

To: senator_kevin_meyer@legis.state.ak.us, representative_mike_hawker@legis.state.ak.us, representative_charisse_millett@legis.state.ak.us, senator_cathy_giessel@legis.state.ak.us

Cc: wiljon@gci.net

Dear Alaska State Legislature:

My son plays in the Abbott O'Rabbit Little League on the fields at Ruth Arcand Park. Little League provides a very healthy recreational

opportunity for Tommy, and we all enjoy going to the games... its always a family & friends event to go and cheer on my son and his team.

The fields at Ruth Arcand Park, while well maintained by Little League volunteers, are difficult to access by wheelchair. Our family supports

the legislative request (TPS # 55282) to upgrade the fields for disabled people to enjoy this great American pastime.

I'd like to add that as more veterans come home from combat I think it is more important than ever that facilities allow access by wheelchair.

Along with all the grandparents, siblings, aunts and uncles etc who just have to sit in the car or watch from a distance because its just too difficult to get their wheelchairs close to the fields for them to watch.

Thank you so much for your consideration of this Anchorage Park Foundation and Abbott O'Rabbit Little League project. We plan to help with any of the work that can be done by volunteers.

Sincerely, Tara Koloski January 20, 2010

Dear Senator Meyer,

Please accept this letter as a sincere show of support for TPS # 55282, partial paving of the Abbott-O-Rabbit Little League facility. I would ask that you approve this project as a show of support for this vital part of the South Anchorage community. Your support will send a message that even in times of economic hardship, we must put the children of a community first and provide opportunities for them to learn and grow into the bright capable members of society they hold the potential to be.

The Abbott-O-Rabbit facility is maintained by a dedicated crew of volunteers. Paving the main facility will have many benefits, not the least of which is allowing AOR to comply with the ADA requirement for access for the disabled.

As a parent of a little league participant, I would highlight the extent to which the dusty un-paved conditions create a health hazard for my daughter who suffers from asthma. Paving the facility will greatly decrease the amount of dust and make participating in the sport more enjoyable and healthier for children with asthma. It is also critical that those with disabilities are not denied the ability to support little league due to an inaccessible facility.

I trust that you will do your best to represent the desires in your community by supporting TPS #55282.

With my sincere thanks,

Melissa H. Boyette

From: Toni Sparrow <toni.direct@yahoo.com>
Date: January 21, 2011 11:25:01 AM AKST
To: wiljon@gci.net

Subject: Re: Please write a letter or email to help AOR

Tom,

e-mails sent to all four.

Toni Sparrow

From: matt subitch <floatguy@gmail.com> Date: January 21, 2011 6:15:51 PM AKST

To: representative_mike_hawker@legis.state.ak.us

Cc: Thomas Homza <wiljon@gci.net>

Subject: TSP # 55282

Dear Representative Hawker,

Our facilities are located in the Ruth Arcand Park complex at the corner of Lake Otis and O'Malley and have been in existence there since the early eighties. Our fields are maintained strictly by volunteers and have been so since they were built. Our complex is the largest baseball facility in the State of Alaska. We host citywide tournaments where more than forty teams come to play each year. We also host state tournaments, of which the winning teams travel out of state to compete with other states for national titles. In fact, the Juneau, juniors team (13-15 yr olds), played at our facility last July in the state tournament, which they won.

We at Abbott O Rabbit are very proud that we have been able to maintain what have been described as the finest baseball fields in the State of Alaska, and that we can host such fine tournaments for our youth. We have done so with all volunteer labor, donated materials, and no city or state monies. We have realized over the years that access to our fields has been difficult for some folks. This last summer we ran into a few problems with field accessibility and are making an attempt to remedy the problem through TPS # 55282. In July, the coach of the Juniors team from Juneau, could not get his wheelchair to the field due to the bad condition of our access paths and parking areas. In June, during our major league citywide tournament, the wife of the coach from Knik could not get to the field her husband was coaching due to the access paths. There have been others that have had problems but these are two of which I was directly involved with.

Abbott O Rabbit does not have the resources to bring our complex up to compliance and we desperately need your help. We are asking for your help through TSP # 55282. Please feel free to stop by the fields at any time to see what a fine establishment we have in your district. I would be more than happy to show you around the facility if you have the time, just give me a call at 440-1035. Thank you for your time and consideration on this matter.

Matt Subitch

From: Thomas Homza <wiljon@gci.net> Date: January 21, 2011 6:40:44 PM AKST

To: senator_kevin_meyer@legis.state.ak.us, representative_mike_hawker@legis.state.ak.us, representative_charisse_millett@legis.state.ak.us, senator_cathy_giessel@legis.state.ak.us Subject: Invitation from the President of AOR Little League

Dear Senators Meyer & Giessel and Representatives Hawker & Millett,

I know your inboxes are being hit with letters of support for the Abbott-O-Rabbit paving project. I won't restate the case for the project, since the members are saying it well. I would encourage your support for it and I would like to extend 3 invitations to you:

- 1) You are each invited to participate in our Opening Day Ceremonies on the morning of Saturday, May 14th. This would involve throwing out the ceremonial 1st pitch (or pitches if more than one accepts we'll make it work!) and/or delivering a short statement or speech. There are typically hundreds of your constituents at this event. Please contact me if you are interested.
- 2) I invite you to contact me with any questions, comments or suggestions about the proposed project; or if you'd like to tour the facility.
- 3) And finally, I invite you to visit our website to learn more about our league (www.aorll.org).

Thank You for your work in our community,

Tom Homza President, Abbott-O-Rabbit Little League From: BRUCE AND CLO

bagiffen@alaska.net> Date: January 22, 2011 8:46:18 AM AKST To: senator_cathy_giessel@legis.state.ak.us Cc: Julie and Tom Homza <wiljon@gci.net>

Subject: Support for AOR Little League TPS# 55282

January 22, 2011

Dear Senator Cathy Giessel:

Our two sons play baseball in the summertime with the Abbott-O-Rabbit Little League in South Anchorage. This is one of our favorite family activities of the year from Opening Day in Mid-May through the championship tournaments in early July.

Access to the Abbott-O-Rabbit fields needs to be improved. Presently, the access roads and parking lots are plagued with large bumps and deep potholes and can be extremely dusty. We support the legislative request (TPS # 55282) to upgrade the parking areas so that they are compliant with the Americans With Disabilities Act. Not only would paving the parking lot improve access to the games for the disabled, but the fields would be less dusty, more modern, and safer for the entire community.

Thank you so much for your consideration of this Anchorage Park Foundation and Abbott O'Rabbit Little League project.

Sincerely,

Clo and Bruce Giffen

AK State Representative Mike Hawker State Capitol Room 502 Juneau, AK, 99801

Representative Hawker,

As a voting constituent in your district, who did vote for you, I write this letter to you for your vote yes on TPS #55282. This is to help partially fund the upgrade of our fields for disabled people, the Abbott O'Rabbit Little League field at Ruth Arcand Park.

My child has played softball with AOR since 2006, each May through to late July (all stars after season). I am on those fields at least 5 days each week, along with other families, including senior grandparents and families. The terrain is not paved and is difficult to navigate with any wheelchair or walker.

The AOR fields at the Ruth Arcand Park are historically developed and maintained by an all volunteer force. With your support from TPS #55282, we can bring this park up to the reality of ADA standards.

In closing, I do count on your support and vote to pass TPS #55282.

Nancy L. Tone